

IN THE ABSTRACT

Replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the accompanying substitute Abstract of the Disclosure, submitted on a separate sheet of paper.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for measuring a phase difference between first and second reflected polarized light signal components, including transmitting a first incident light signal toward a first object, wherein the first object is a magnetic disk and/or a glass substrate. Separating from a reflected light signal, a first mixed reflected polarized light signal component having a first phase and a second mixed reflected polarized light signal component having a second phase that is different from said first phase, wherein said mixed reflected polarized light signal components comprises both P-polarized and S-polarized light relative to a plane of incidence of said reflected light signal. Detecting the intensities of said first and second mixed reflected polarized light signal components, and determining a difference in phase between said first and second mixed reflected polarized light signal components based upon said first and second intensities.